

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1533

E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR DA CI

SUBJ: DANE ACCUSES CHILEAN JUNTA OF TORTURE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

REF: COPENHAGEN 1130

SUMMARY. DANISH MEDIA CONTINUE TO SUBJECT DEVELOPMENTS
IN CHILE TO CLOSE AND CRITICAL SCRUTINY. MEMBER OF
DANISH APARLIAMENT WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM CHILE ALLEGES
TRIALS OF JUNTA'S OPPONENTS ARE UNFAIR AND MARKED BY
TORTURE, VIOLENCE AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
END SUMMARY.

1. OLE ESPERSEN, LEFT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
OF PARLIAMENT, PROFESSOR OF LAW, AND FORMER CHAIRMAN
OF DANISH RADIO COUNCIL, HAS TOLD PRESS HE WAS
EXPELLED FROM CHILE AND REFUSED PERMISSION TO CONTINUE
ATTENDING TRIALS OF JUNTA OPPONENTS. ESPERSEN IDENTIFIED
SELF ON ENTRY INTO CHILE AS TRAVELING ON BUSINESS BUT WAS
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REALLY REPRESENTING "INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR

INVESTIGATION OF THE CHILEAN JUNTA'S VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS" TO WHICH HE WILL SUBMIT REPORT. HE AND RAMSEY CLARK, THE FORMER US ATTORNEY GENERAL, TOGETHER WITH AN AMERICAN JUDGE AND AN ARGENTINE LAWYER, REPORTEDLY ATTENDED FIRST THREE DAYS OF TRIAL OF 64 PRISONERS AT AN OLD NUNNERY 25 KILOMETERS FROM SANTIAGO. OTHER THREE OBSERVERS WERE PERMITTED TO ATTEND FOURTH DAY, ESPERSEN SAYS, BUT HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO DO SO AND EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY. THERE WAS NO EXPLANATION, HE SAID, BUT ADDED THAT "RAMSEY CLARK FELT IT WAS BECAUSE I CAME FROM A SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRY WHICH IS KNOWN TO BE ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF THE JUNTA."

2. ESPERSEN TOLD PRESS HE HAD SEEN ENOUGH ANYWAY, ALLEGING WIDE-SPREAD TORTURE, VIOLENCE, IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT SENTENCES AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT TRIAL HE ATTENDED WAS CONDUCTED BY SEVEN AIR FORCE OFFICERS ALTHOUGH ALL ACCUSED WERE CIVILIANS, WHO WERE CONSIDERED TO BE DANGEROUS FOR CRITICIZING AIR FORCE. ACCUSED WERE REPRESENTED BY CIVILIAN ATTORNEYS BUT ESPERSEN SAID THAT ONE OF THEM, WHO CLAIMED THAT HIS CLIENT'S CONFESSION HAD BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH TORTURE, WAS SUSPENDED AND WOULD HIMSELF BE TRIED. DANE SAID THAT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PRISONERS SEEMED TRIFLING BUT SENTENCES DEMANDED RANGED FROM FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT TO DEATH. AVERAGE WAS IMPRISONMENT FOR 15-20 YEARS. HE CONCLUDED THAT NOBODY CAN SAY HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED OR KILLED. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ORGAN AKTUELT QUOTES ESPERSEN AS SAYING "A CAUTIOUS ESTIMATE BY UNBIASED OBSERVERS IS THAT BETWEEN 5,000 AND 50,000 WERE KILLED."
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